

King County Parks and Recreation Division

King County Parks **Your
Big Backyard**  King County



2006
First Quarter Report
Parks Omnibus Ordinance Report
to the King County Council
January - March, 2006

Highlights of the First Quarter

- ❖ First quarter business revenues are significantly higher (over 30%) than the same period last year. This is primarily due to enterprise and entrepreneurial revenues from the Partnership for Parks Initiative.
- ❖ Highlights from the Partnership for Parks Initiative include payments for \$245,000 for the Trails Wayfinding Kiosk partnership negotiated with Starbucks and \$105,000 from Group Health for biking activities. In addition, first payment from the Cirque du Soleil for almost \$200,000 was received and will be reflected in second quarter revenues.
- ❖ The King County Aquatic Center continues to attract major events. In the first quarter of 2006, it was the venue for the PAC10 Men's and Women's Diving Championships, the PAC10 Men's Swimming Championships and the United States Swimming Spring Championships.
- ❖ The theme for the 2006 Fair is:



- ❖ The Evergreen Pool has hosted a successful Teen Night and is currently being utilized three days per week by an Evergreen High School physical education program for the first time in over 15 years.
- ❖ Lake Sawyer Park was transferred to the City of Black Diamond. King County maintained an easement for eventual development of a regional trail segment through the park.
- ❖ Almost 1,600 volunteers spent over 10,480 hours on park maintenance efforts including restoration projects, trail projects, greenhouse nursery work, invasive removal and teen recreation programs.

Contents

Introduction	4
Revenues	5-15
Entrepreneurial Strategies	16-17
Gifts, Bequests, Donations & Grants	18
Agreements & Partnerships (Community Partnership Grants Program)	19
Transfers to Cities	20-21
Community Outreach and Involvement	22-23
Financial Plan – First Quarter 2006	Appendix A

Parks & Recreation Division

2006 First Quarter Report

Introduction

The Omnibus Parks Ordinance (Ordinance 14509), adopted November 18, 2002, by the King County Council, included this reporting requirement for the Parks and Recreation Division:

“The division shall provide a written report to the council, filed with the clerk of the council, at least four times each year, by March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15, and more frequently as directed by the council by motion, regarding the execution of the division’s duties and responsibilities as established in K.C.C. 2.16.045.E. Following transmittal of each written report, the division shall also make an oral presentation to the council. The written reports and oral presentations shall include, but shall not be limited to, information as to the division’s efforts in:

- A. Meeting revenue targets under section 7 of this ordinance;*
- B. Implementing entrepreneurial strategies including advertising, leasing and concession agreements;*
- C. Pursuing gifts, bequests and donations, including the value and sources of gifts, bequests and donations received;*
- D. Developing agreements with other organizations to provide recreation services;*
- E. Transferring parks and recreation assets within incorporated areas or potential annexation areas to cities; and*
- F. Community outreach and involvement.”*

This is our fourth year of reporting on the accomplishments of the division. Quarterly reports were transmitted for each quarter in 2003, 2004, 2005, and now, for 2006. This year is also the third year of the Parks Levy fund, approved by the voters in 2003 with collections to run from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2007.

We have refined and restructured the Quarterly Report to correspond to the Ordinance requirements more directly. We welcome your ideas and input. Please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Brown or Tom Koney of the King County Parks and Recreation Division at 206-296-8687 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Revenues - Summary

Parks & Recreation Division Revenues

2006 Adopted Revenues	\$ 20,634,369
2006 Actual Revenues	\$ 20,377,066

First Quarter 2006 - Business Revenues Only

Levy funds, interest earnings, interfund transfers and other revenues that are not within the control of the division are excluded from this total.

Actual Business Revenues¹ (includes user fees & enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues)

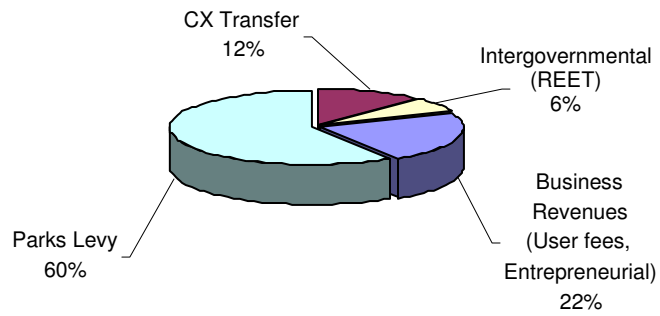
January 1 - March 31, 2006	\$1,007,417
January 1 - March 31, 2005	\$768,118

First quarter total business revenues in 2006 were much higher than the same period in 2005, due to enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues, including, \$245,000 for the Trails Wayfinding Kiosk partnership with Starbucks.

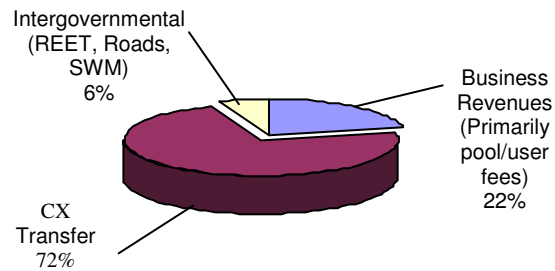
Even with a reduced asset base (due to transfer of facilities), business revenues still comprise about 22% of the total Parks Revenue budget, the same percentage as in 2002, at the beginning of the Business Plan (see charts, following page). The ensuing period has seen transfers of facilities, mostly pools, which generated over \$2,000,000 in revenues. The business revenue forecast on the remaining assets has risen from a total of about \$2.3 million in 2002 to over \$4.6 million in the 2006 adopted budget.

¹ Based on ARMS financial reports.

2006 Adopted Budget Revenues - \$20.6M



2002 Adopted Budget Revenues - \$26M



Expenditures – Summary

Parks and Recreation Division Expenditures

2006 Adopted Expenditures	\$20,888,426
2005 ² Actual Expenditures	\$19,372,702
2005 Adopted Expenditures	\$20,534,400
2005 ³ Revised Expenditures	\$20,390,311

First Quarter 2006 - Actual Expenditures

January 1 - March 31, 2006	\$4,275,848
January 1 - March 31, 2005	\$ 4,230,354

With 25% of the year having passed, expenditures were 20% of the division's annual expenditure budget. This expenditure pattern is in line with historic business trends.

In 2005, the division underexpended its budget by around 5%. This underexpenditure reflected the division's deliberate attempt to be frugal, given the uncertain nature of business revenues and the need to build a prudent fund balance. In January 2004, the division began with a fund balance of zero, but the fund balance in the levy fund now achieves the financial planning target. The division continues to look for ways to increase efficiencies and control expenditures. However, in 2006 the division intends to more fully expend its appropriated budget on maintaining and operating parks and facilities, now that it has achieved its target fund balance.

² 2005 figures are per 14th month ARMS financial reports.

³ Reflects automated carryover and disappropriations in the 1st and 2nd Quarter Omnibus Ordinances.

Revenues - Implementing the Business Plan Key Business Units, First Quarter Review

Marymoor Park



Marymoor Business Unit

	2006 Q1	2005 Q1	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - facilities	\$ 2,429	\$ 3,242	\$ (813)	-25%
Rev - fields	\$ 19,497	\$ 33,494	\$ (13,997)	-42%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - parking	\$ 86,938	\$ 90,956	\$ (4,018)	-4%
Rev - campground	\$ 147	\$ -	\$ 147	
Rev - concerts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Rev - Subway	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Rev - Pet Garden	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -	
Sponsors/concessions	\$ 4,923	\$ 5,698	\$ (775)	-14%
Naming rights	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000	\$ -	
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 219,700	\$ 238,400	\$ 18,700	-8%
Expenditures* (rounded)	\$ 272,700	\$ 245,200	\$ 27,500	11%

* Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units ("loaned-in labor"). In the year-end (4th quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14509.

First Quarter Highlights include:

- ❖ Marymoor revenues overall are down 8% from first quarter of 2005. Most significantly, field revenues are down by 42%. This is primarily due to construction closures on Soccer fields 10 & 11 and cool, rainy weather. Baseball field revenue alone is down 38% due to rainouts in March 2006.

- ❖ Parking revenue also suffered in first quarter 2006 because of the bad weather. Parking revenue from users of the off-leash area is estimated to account for almost 50% of all parking revenue at Marymoor Park. Approximately one-half of the off-leash dog walking area was closed due to heavy flooding, much of January and February. However, the closures were necessary to reduce long-term damage to the area, thus avoiding high restoration costs and further closures later in 2006. Closures were coordinated between King County staff and leaders of the Serve Our Dog Areas (SODA) volunteer stewardship group, who provided much of the labor, education, and enforcement associated with the closures. The public was very cooperative during the closures, demonstrating how important this facility is to them.
- ❖ New covers for parking collection machines, installed in the fall of 2005 and finished in the first quarter of 2006, have proven to be very helpful in reducing maintenance calls for the machines by keeping the patrons and their currency dry. The bill-collector mechanisms used to jam frequently in bad weather. Given the amount of soggy days January-March of 2006, it is believed parking revenue would have been even lower without the new covers.
- ❖ The Pet Garden, which opened in November 2005, provided \$750 in the first quarter of 2006. The garden wall is currently under construction and should generate more revenue in the future.
- ❖ The new Recreation and Event Area was under construction in the first quarter of 2006 and has now been completed. This is anticipated to allow Marymoor to realize more enterprise and entrepreneurial revenue in the future. The first large event to be held on the event area is the Cirque du Soleil in May.
- ❖ Before the asphalt was down, the Marymoor Office received several inquiries about use of the area for large special events for later in 2006. One new event already booked is the “Best of Marymoor” crafts show, August 19-20. The producer, Northwest Crafts Alliance, decided to move their summer show from Magnuson Park in Seattle to Marymoor Park for 2006 in order to attract more of the Eastside audience. Northwest Crafts Alliance was attracted to the new Recreation and Event Area because of its visibility to Hwy 520, easy access and the name recognition of Marymoor Park.

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatics Center



Aquatics Center Business Unit

	2006 Q1	2005 Q1	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - facilities	\$ 180,384	\$ 174,683	\$ 5,701	3%
Rev - courses	\$ 30,096	\$ 31,751	\$ (1,655)	-5%
Rev - drop-in	\$ 13,083	\$ 9,173	\$ 3,910	43%
Rev - Conference Ctr	\$ 4,157	\$ 4,913	\$ (756)	-15%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - Subway	\$ 7,005	\$ 4,885	\$ 2,120	43%
Rev - concession sales	\$ 270	\$ 429	\$ (159)	-37%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 235,000	\$ 225,800	\$ 9,200	4%
Expenditures* (rounded)	\$ 341,600	\$ 357,800	\$ (16,200)	-5%

* Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units ("loaned-in labor"). In the year-end (4th quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14509.

First Quarter Highlights include:

- ❖ Overall, revenues from the King County Aquatic Center are up 4% compared to the first quarter of 2005.
- ❖ The King County Aquatic Center continues to attract major events. In the first quarter of 2006, it was the venue for the PAC10 Men's and Women's Diving Championships, the PAC10 Men's Swimming Championships and the United States Swimming Spring Championships.
- ❖ The United States Swimming Spring Championship had approximately 2,000 spectators and elite athletes in attendance. Many of these athletes will be representing the USA in future Olympics. This event rotates throughout the nation and returned to us after six years.
- ❖ In spite of fewer weekends available to book rentals due to increased special events, party rental revenue still continues to increase.

- ❖ The \$3,300 revenue received in March from Subway was the largest since they opened at the Aquatic Center. Due to popular demand, for some of the events they have added items from the Subway Express menu used at Subway Wal-Mart Stores across the nation. This has played a major factor in the increased revenue.
- ❖ The division continues to improve this important regional facility. The recreational pool CIP project to improve attendance entered into the design phase, and will include projects such as acoustics to dampen noise, children's water features, and a new family changing room. Also, a design for parking lot improvements to deter vandalism will include more lighting, cameras and signage.

The King County Fairgrounds at Enumclaw



King County Fairgrounds Business Unit

	2006 Q1	2005 Q1	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - facilities	\$ 10,726	\$ 15,988	\$ (5,262)	-33%
Rev - Annual Fair	\$ 41,879	\$ 11	\$ 41,868	>100%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - campgrounds	\$ 60	\$ 260	\$ (200)	-77%
Revenues – Total (rounded)	\$ 52,700	\$ 16,300	\$ 36,400	223%
Expenditures* (rounded)	\$ 83,400	\$ 116,900	\$ (33,500)	-29%

* Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units (“loaned-in labor”). In the year-end (4th quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14509.

First Quarter Highlights include:

- ❖ It is difficult to evaluate fairgrounds revenue because the fair has not occurred (it is scheduled for July 19th - 23rd). Overall, revenues are higher because Agriculture money from the state arrived in the first quarter of this year, unlike last year when the state money arrived in the second quarter.
- ❖ In keeping with the new financial plan, the Fairgrounds office was closed for the 4 slowest months. The fourth month of closure was in the first quarter of 2006. Some savings were realized in the first quarter as a result, but there was also a drop in facilities rental revenue. We will continue to evaluate this operational approach.
- ❖ A major event in the first quarter was the annual Small Farm Expo, sponsored by the WSU Cooperative Extension/King County. DNRP staff provide this event free to public and over 1,200 people attended this year.

- ❖ The theme for the 2006 Fair is:



- ❖ Planning is well underway for this year's Fair. The emphasis is on involving the community and making the 2006 Fair kid and family friendly. All stage entertainment will be free and a new Demolition Derby is planned. Research has shown that a demolition derby is the largest attendance day for other local fairs. This should help increase attendance.

Recreation Ballfields and Facilities



Ballfields and Recreation Business Unit

	2006 Q1	2005 Q1	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - Ballfields	\$ 28,099	\$ 22,628	\$ 5,471	24%
Rev - Facilities	\$ 22,994	\$ 17,276	\$ 5,718	33%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - RV Camping	\$ 813	\$ 576	\$ 237	41%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 51,900	\$ 40,500	\$ 11,400	28%

Expenditure information on facilities and ballfields is generally tracked individually, and only on an annual basis; they will be discussed in the 4th quarter report.

First Quarter Highlights Include:

- ❖ Both ballfield and facility rentals are up the first quarter of this year. An increase in youth athletic field fees and several new user groups are the main reasons for the ballfield revenue increase. Indoor facility rental for events such as birthday parties have helped increase revenue.
- ❖ Revenues from this business area are highly seasonal, with the primary activities occurring in the second and third quarters of the year.
- ❖ Tolt MacDonald campground use continues to increase.

Swimming Pools



Swimming Pools (Other than the Aquatic Center)

Includes Evergreen, Renton, Vashon and Cottage Lake Facilities

	2006 Q1	2005 Q1	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - Pool Fees	\$ 106,436	\$ 92,095	\$ 14,341	16%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - Concessions	\$ 233	\$ 413	\$ (180)	-44%
Revenues – Total (rounded)	\$ 106,700	\$ 92,500	\$ 14,200	15%
Expenditures* (rounded)	\$ 192,600	\$ 217,500	\$ (24,900)	-11%

* Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units (“loaned-in labor”). In the year-end (4th quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14509.

First Quarter Highlights Include:

- ❖ Overall, revenues from other pools are up 15% compared to the first quarter of 2005.
- ❖ The Renton Pool has offered a special float-in movie event each month and has had excellent attendance. Revenues and attendance are up in all programs.
- ❖ The Evergreen Pool has hosted a successful Teen Night and is currently being utilized three days per week by an Evergreen High School PE program for the first time in over 15 years.

Implementing Entrepreneurial Strategies New Ways of Raising Revenues

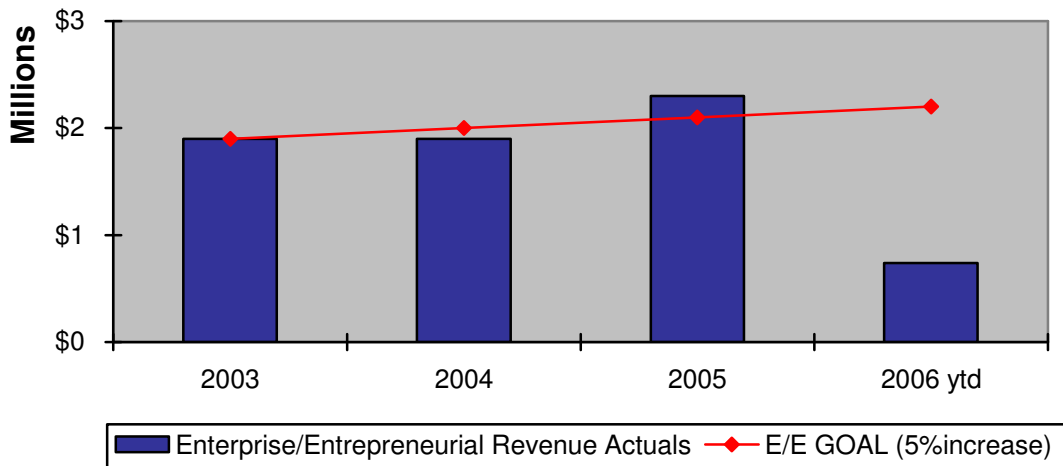
Business revenues include traditional user fees and enterprise/entrepreneurial activities. The division considers user fees as more traditional activities, such as pool fees, field rentals, and recreational programs. Enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues include other business revenues – a myriad of other non-traditional activities, ranging from corporate sponsorships, to timber revenues, parking, and facility rentals (including concert series). Previous tables have included some elements of enterprise/entrepreneurial revenue. However, the more non-traditional revenues are described below.

In 2005, the division met the goal of a 5% increase in annual enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues since 2003 (see graph below). As DNRP develops strategies for long-term funding options, including a possible levy, Parks will maximize enterprise and entrepreneurial revenue and continue to explore strategies (efficiencies) to minimize tax subsidy needed for active recreation facilities. Parks will continue to foster and develop corporate, non-profit and community based partnerships in an effort to increase revenues and leverage capital funds.

Parks will continue to implement its revenue enhancement strategic plan which positions King County Parks as an advertising partner, program and event facilitator, and entrepreneur.

The outlook for enterprise & entrepreneurial revenue in 2006 looks bright. **In the first quarter of 2006 the team received about \$740,000 in enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues.**

Enterprise & Entrepreneurial Revenues



First Quarter Highlights Include:

- ❖ The Parks team received payment of \$245,000 for the Trails Wayfinding Kiosk partnership negotiated with **Starbucks**.
- ❖ \$105,000 was received from the final year of the **Group Health** partnership for biking activities in King County. Enterprise staff coordinated to print 50,000 new King County Bicycle Maps, and assist in booth promotion and design for the 2005 Group Health Bike Expo held in February 2006 at Magnuson Park in Seattle.
- ❖ Revenues from sales at the Aquatic Center **SUBWAY** came to \$5,800 in the first quarter, compared to \$4,800 in 2005.
- ❖ Sale of gravel in the first quarter came to \$24,000, compared to \$26,000 in 2005.
- ❖ Parking revenue at Marymoor Park was about \$87,000, compared to \$91,000 in 2005.
- ❖ Payment was received from **Cirque du Soleil** for almost \$200,000. **Lease payment and parking revenues will be reflected in second quarter enterprise & entrepreneurial revenues which is conservatively estimated at around \$500,000 of new revenues.**
- ❖ The enterprise team, in working with the Executive and Public Health, founded a project to install several reflexology walking paths at locations within our Parks system. We hope this new amenity will provide future opportunity for corporate sponsorship.
- ❖ Major initiatives are under development and are a part of ongoing meetings and relationship building with potential corporate partners. The division continues to aggressively pursue mutually beneficial and financially lucrative agreements through the Partnership for Parks program. Partnership for Parks initiatives can include: **Concessions:** Subway, Coffee, Dog Wash, Pepsi, etc; **Naming Rights:** Group Health Velodrome, MSN Wi-Fi Hotspot; **Event Sponsorships:** US Bank Concerts at Marymoor, First Tech Movies at Marymoor; **Gifts/Grants:** Starbucks Trail Wayfinding Kiosks; **Marketing/Advertising:** Dasani Blue Bikes, Ballfield Signs, Vehicle Ads; **Utilities & Lease Agreements:** cell towers, easements, Cirque du Soleil, ATMs; **Public/Private Real Estate Development:** Lodges, Hotels or Spas among many other projects.

Pursuing Gifts, Bequests, Donations & Grants

- ❖ The Parks Division received a \$500 reimbursement from Risk Management for warning and mineshaft hazard signs for Cougar Mountain and Grandridge Park's mineshafts.
- ❖ The Parks Division received a donation of approximately 300 pounds of seed and 300 pounds of fertilizer to improve soccer fields and park aesthetics.
- ❖ The Parks Division applied for a \$24,000 King Conservation District WRIA 7 grant for re-vegetation on the Preston Mill Site along the Raging River.

Agreements with Other Organizations - CPG

The Community Partnership and Grants Program (CPG) continues to develop partnerships for new facilities and amenities throughout King County. There are currently over 18 partnership projects either already implemented or in development that represent over \$1.8 million in grant requests. Once completed, these projects will contain over \$20 million in leveraged community investment (cash, in-kind, donations, volunteers, etc.) and will result in nearly \$30 million worth of new facilities and amenities. Per the tenants of the CPG program and the Business Plan, these improvements will result in little or no new tax-funded operations and maintenance costs due to the supplemental maintenance and programming commitments made by the community partners.

Groundbreakings and announcements will occur throughout 2006 and many projects will be complete and operational in 2007. Below are some of the CPG project highlights:



Regional RC Flying Facility

Site: Hobart Landfill
Partner: Lake Sawyer Hawks

New Baseball Fields

Site: Houghton Landfill
Partner: Kirkland American Little League

Astronomy/Telescope/Star Gazing Site

Site: Closed Hobart Landfill
Partner: Astronomical Society

New Alpine Tower

Site: Cottage Lake Park
Potential Partner: YMCA

New Community Park

Site: Mirrormont Park
Potential Partner: Mirrormont Community Association

New Birdloop and Interpretive Gazebo/Signage

Site: Marymoor Park
Partner: East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Baseball Complex Upgrades

Site: Big Finn Hill
Partner: KNLL

New Velodrome Race Building

Site: Marymoor Park
Partner: MVA

New Whitewater Recreation River Access Park

Site: Tanner Landing
Partner: American Whitewater

New Synthetic Turf Complex and Community Park

Site: Preston Athletic Fields
Partners: Preston Community Club, Eastside FC (EYSA), and Issaquah Little League

New Rowhouse

Site: Marymoor Park
Partner: SRA

New 100+ Acre Mountainbike Riding Area and Skills Park

Site: Duthie Hill Park
Partner: Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club (BBTC)

New Synthetic Turf Regional Rugby Complex

Site: Unincorporated King County
Partner: NW Parks Foundation

Transferring Parks and Recreation Assets

Transferring local parks to cities and focusing on rural and regional programs is a key element of the Business Plan. Consistent with the Business Plan, the transfer of parks and pools within the urban growth area is being discussed as part of a broader county annexation strategy. However, the division will also seek to transfer properties in advance of actual annexations whenever possible.

In the first quarter of 2006, Lake Sawyer Park was transferred to the City of Black Diamond. The ILAs, deeds and user agreements for a portion of Three Forks Natural Area and the Slough House Park will be executed in the second quarter of 2006. The division is actively exploring options with a non-profit entity to transfer the remaining two UGA pools (Renton and Evergreen), however grant funds were not received and transfers are unlikely in 2006.

The division has made significant progress transferring properties since the development of the business plan. Due to State legislative changes, the Division anticipates swifter annexations and park transfers of the few eligible remaining sites. When the Business Plan was developed in 2002, the Parks and Recreation Division had local pools and local parks that cost over \$7 million to operate inside the urban growth area boundary. King County has now completed transfer agreements for 10 local in-city pools, the Tahoma pool (a UGA facility) and 24 local parks.

The parks and facilities that have been transferred include:

Auburn Pool	City of Auburn
Auburndale Two Park	City of Auburn
Beaver Lake Park	City of Sammamish
Bridle Crest Trail (Redmond)	City of Redmond
Coal Creek Park	City of Bellevue
Des Moines Creek Park	City of SeaTac
East Auburn Athletic Fields	City of Auburn
Eastgate Park	City of Bellevue
Enumclaw Golf Course	City of Enumclaw
Enumclaw Pool	City of Enumclaw
Federal Way Pool	City of Federal Way
Fort Dent Park	City of Tukwila
Grandview Park	City of SeaTac
Jenkins Creek Park	City of Covington
Juanita Beach Park	City of Kirkland
Kent Pool	City of Kent
Lake Burien School Site	City of Burien
Lake Heights Park	City of Bellevue
Lake Sawyer Park	City of Black Diamond
Lake Wilderness Park	City of Maple Valley
Lea Hill Park	City of Auburn

Luther Burbank Park	City of Mercer Island
Manor Hill Park	City of Bellevue
Mercer Island Pool	City of Mercer Island & Northwest Center
Mt. Rainier Pool	Cities of Des Moines & Normandy Park, & Highline School District
Northshore Pool	Northwest Center
OO Denny Park	City of Seattle
Redmond Pool	Northwest Center
Salmon Creek Park	City of Burien
Salmon Creek Waterway	City of Burien
Shamrock Park	Si View Metropolitan Park District
Si View Park	Si View Metropolitan Park District
Si View Pool	Si View Metropolitan Park District
South Central Pool	City of Tukwila
South Park Farm	City of Seattle
Tahoma Pool	City of Covington

The division continues to work with cities and parks districts on the transfer of the remaining UGA facilities, including:

Bridle Crest Trail	City of Bellevue
West Hill Park	City of Bothell
Sportsmen's Park	City of Enumclaw
Juanita Triangle	Finn Hill Park and Recreation District
Juanita Heights	Finn Hill Park and Recreation District
Sammamish Cove	City of Issaquah
Meerwood Park	City of Issaquah
Klahanie	City of Issaquah
Swamp Creek	City of Kenmore
Inglewood Wetlands	City of Kenmore
Tollgate Farm – middle site	City of North Bend
Slough House Park	City of Redmond (in final stage of completion)
Maplewood Park	City of Renton
May Creek Park	City of Renton
Sunset Playfield	City of SeaTac
Three Forks Natural Area	City of Snoqualmie (in final stage of completion)

In addition to the transfer agreements and efforts identified above, the county has long-term lease agreements for operations of the following facilities:

Gold Greek Lodge	Operated by Boys & Girls Club of King County
West Hill Community Center	Operated by Boys & Girls Club of King County

Community Outreach and Involvement

The year is off to a good start as Parks continues its relationship with volunteers who give their time and energy to maintain and improve parks and natural lands. In the first quarter of 2005, almost 1,600 volunteers gave over 10,480 hours which included: picking up litter; walking trails to observe changes or conditions to report to park staff and to assist other trail users; trail restoration work to keep trails useable and safe; building new trails; potting plants and performing other necessary tasks to help keep the Greenhouse productive; and enthusiastically battling Scot's Broom, blackberries, ivy and other invasives for weed control and removal in parks and natural areas.

First Quarter Highlights Include:

During the first Quarter of 2006, 110 volunteer events were completed on King County Parks and Natural Lands. A sample of the activities are highlighted below.

- ❖ Students from the Renton and Tahoma school districts Transition Program, Salmon Bay Middle School and Federal Way Academy performed over 1000 hours of necessary nursery work at the Greenhouse to help keep it productive and flourishing.
- ❖ 15 Park Ambassadors gave almost 300 hours of volunteer service observing trail conditions, providing information for park goers, picking up litter and doing minor trail maintenance in areas such as Red Town Meadow, Grand Ridge, Taylor Mountain, Soos Creek Park, and Mary Cash natural area.
- ❖ 40 volunteers from Maple Valley Rotary, Friends of North Shorewood Park, Redmond District Starbucks and East Lake Washington Audubon spent 130 hours clearing overgrown park trails, pulling Scot's Broom and cutting blackberries in Maple Valley, White Center and Marymoor.
- ❖ During the first quarter, King County Parks and Natural Lands benefited from volunteer labor provided through 77 work parties sponsored by: Washington Trail Association; Friends of Cedar River; Tahoma Outdoor Academy; Seattle Pacific University; Tahoma Back Country Horseman; City of Woodinville; REI; Two Rivers School; and Northwest School. 1122 volunteers spent 7433 hours on trail work and restoration projects in areas such as Cougar Mountain, Grandridge, Taylor Mountain, and the Sammamish River Trail.

Reconnecting People to Their Parks: Outreach and Reconnecting Strategy

On December 1, 2005, Parks launched a pilot web-based feedback tool for several parks, trails, ballfields and pools. The division received over 170 responses and our customer satisfaction score hovers between 3.8 and 4.6 out of 5. This score demonstrates that the public appreciates the division's job of managing and maintaining our system. This customer feedback tool has also helped Parks to identify areas of concern in the system such as vandalism and immediately respond to citizens. This consistent feedback loop is one tool being used to connect to our citizens and user groups. Park users appear to appreciate the division's efforts to promptly reply to their concerns and every effort is made to resolve the issue.

As the pilot program has ended the division identified a software tool that has the flexibility to expand this program system-wide. Soon the division will be distributing signage about this program throughout the system. The website and survey was developed and is hosted on www.parksfeedback.com. The division will also integrate the caller-log customer feedback data into the new software so all feedback is in one place. This data will be used to help develop long-term funding and system priorities.

Below are some of the examples of comments the division has received:

"I think you folks do a fabulous job of taking care of Cougar Mountain Park"

"We love taking our dogs to the off-leash area at Marymoor Park. We think you all have done a wonderful job offering a large, fun area for dogs. "

"I like the idea of one large inter-connected trail."

"The staff I meet along the trail is always wonderfully nice!"

"There are some very fast cyclists out there who give no dodging and weaving through everyone from families with strollers to slower cyclists."

"I noticed a large amount of VERY crude and offensive graffiti. It looked to be very recent"

"I believe that paved trails are the most important transportation issue the county has..."